

DPW Commissioners Meeting  
Wednesday, June 26, 2013  
Workshop on Transfer Station

7:00 PM Workshop meeting

Public Comment:

Dora Tevan, 16 South Street, stated she is concerned about some huge safety concerns. Unsupervised children should not be allowed on the grounds, she has seen children almost falling in and safety with traffic pattern. She stated that volunteers should get a discount on their stickers, they could document the hours they donate there. She is opposed to those who take items out of people's hands and sell them on the internet, instead of using them in their own homes. She said rusty and sharp items shouldn't be in the swap shop. She said she knows of Gloucester residents who come to the Transfer Station on a Saturday afternoon; this shouldn't be allowed to occur.

Michael Polisson, Poole's Terrace, discussion about the metals pile. He said it has been closed for some time now. Some people could save significant dollars by taking and fixing up some items. He questioned un-stickered users of the dump – what can be done; there are 4,500 dwelling units in town and 2,600 stickers have been sold. He questioned what the other units are doing with their trash.

Frederick Tarr, 154 Main Street, stated he never got a reason for why the metals pile is closed. He would like to be able to pick something up for a couple of weeks and return it.

Metals Pile:

Mel said that the prior director said having the metals pile was no longer acceptable. It was done away with about five years ago. If someone has a lawn mower or something else of value, they can put it in the swap shop. If it goes in the metals pile it creates revenue for the town. The traffic wasn't moving, it slowed the traffic while people waited to see what was coming in to the metals pile.

Commissioner Reed said there can be some very sharp items that are dangerous; this is a safety issue.

Chairman Gardner asked if we opened up the metals pile, would scavengers just take everything of value. We did have people that hung out there all day long to wait for anything of value.

Mel said people shouldn't be climbing all over the sharp metal. It's a real safety issue, this is the town's land and the town would be liable for any injury.

Frederick Tarr said it was always a few people that abused it; there are a few people ruining it for everyone.

Commissioner Sena questioned if the traffic and congestion has changed since the metals pile was closed.

Sharon Kashida, 34 Marmion Way, stated that this is a complicated issue. Many transfer stations look the other way around the liability issue. However, most communities won't do it because of safety issues and the fairness issues. Sometimes there is conflict over pieces of metal. The metal markets are good, so the revenue is good for the town. She stated that the DEP isn't involved here, it's local rule that decides this issue.

It was recommended perhaps opening it for a trial period and posting signs that state anything taken is for personal use.

Commissioner Reed said there is currently a sign directing people to put metal in the swap shop that is suitable for personal use. He continued that this is an educational issue, residents need to be made aware that they can put usable metal items in the swap shop; it's just a communication issue.

Chairman Gardner said it's been closed for a while now; we need to understand the liability issues. A trial period may not be a bad idea, but we can't have town employees policing the metals pile. We could assess it after the trial. He stated that previously there were more volunteers.

Commissioner Sena stated that other towns have swap shops with set hours staffed by volunteers.

Chairman Gardner, the spirit of the swap shop really didn't happen. Boxes of items would be taken within seconds for someone to resell, not for their own use.

#### Recycling:

J. Parisi distributed information on glass, paper, tin, and plastics recycling. He said the town gets a market rate for paper and are charged for transportation, so the paper pays for the transportation. Pay-as-you throw has been available for about seven years; \$20 haul charge per ton for transportation.

Sharon Kashida said the process is getting better, recycling is increasing. The big contaminant in single stream is keeping the glass out. She wonders if Rockport could get a better price because the glass is kept out.

Commissioner Reed questioned if single stream helps with safety issues at all. He said how about changing the traffic flow and making it easier for people to move around.

Chairman Gardner questioned if the town went to single stream would the town get \$10 per ton.

Director Parisi said it looks like the best deal is transporting 100 yard recycling trailers from the transfer station, where \$10/ton is rebated for single stream recycling materials, but it's unclear if that includes transportation.

D. Greel said the town could run its own recycling system, but it would have to be a wet system and we'd have to compact it. We'd need to buy three 100 yard trailers and a truck; that excavator will not compact that sufficiently.

Director Parisi said we really do need to look at the efficiencies and evaluate how we do business.

Chairman Gardner asked if there is anything we can do now to increase our recycling or compacting rate that doesn't involve a rebuild of the transfer station; he asked if there were any better efficiencies.

D. Greel said let's see if we can get a better deal with compacting.

Chairman Gardner said with curbside at least there is ongoing monitoring.

Commissioner Reed said let's look at single stream and what are the smallest containers we can use. It would be nice if we could use the compactors that we already have.

Director Parisi said he would look at single stream with our existing equipment.

Chairman Gardner questioned if a compactor can be put between the trailers in one of those spaces.

Commissioner Sena stated that the technology is changing; at some point we're going to have to bite the bullet and revamp the whole transfer station.

The subject of stickers sold was discussed, for the 2011/2012 season were 3,064, 3,200 for the 2012/2013, so 200 stickers were added. However, in 2013/2014 we've gone down 500 stickers but we're only half way through the year. We've lost 250 stickers in flat rate at \$145. We're generating the same tonnage, yet sticker sales are going down and we have the same amount of trash. How are people getting away without buying stickers. It would seem that there are 1,000 to 1,500 homes in Rockport that aren't paying for their trash.

J. Parisi said we're 110 less in the flat fee and 24 less in the seniors. J. Parisi said he would be reaching out to our existing vendors and other vendors on single stream opportunities.

Chairman Gardner said the traffic flow is a problem, most transfer stations don't have cars backing up. It gets very congested with vehicles backing up. He said that figuring out the traffic flow is probably the easier part of the solution. Maybe expanding and using some of the space in the parking lot; if there was a better flow we could have a safer operation. The design isn't the issue, it will be the cost to change the layout. Residents will have to feel strongly enough to decide to spend the money for it.

Commissioner Reed said we could hire someone to come in and study the whole layout or we could try to figure this out ourselves.

Director Parisi recommended visiting some other transfer stations to see how they operate.

Commissioner Sena, said he'd like to see what is available and how it could be expanded. If we took the outside road and the entrance road, the park n' ride road; maybe expand in that area.

Chairman Gardner recommended coming up with a simple redesign of the traffic flow by December, 2013.

Construction Debris/Disposal:

Chairman Gardner said we continue to hear from local contractors that they don't understand why they can't utilize the transfer station. They don't want to go all the way to Hiltz. J. Parisi said he solicited prices, Hiltz didn't respond and it didn't make any sense for Waste Management.

Chairman Gardner said he never heard any complaints about the cost from contractors; they just would like the convenience of staying in Rockport. It was a service that we provided to contractors in town. If they are willing to pay the price and the town can make some money, we should look at it. May be a coupon system where the coupons could be purchased at Town Hall and no money is at the Transfer Station. J. Gardner offered to contact Steve Roller and see if he would give it another try up there.

J. Parisi said we'd be tying up a valuable ramp for C&D.

Commissioner Reed said this is such an irritation. He recommended adding another \$5.00 to the sticker fee and letting residents dispose of large items.

Cash isn't taken up there, do we want to consider credit card capability. You can bring a check up there, but what about a check with insufficient funds. What if some wants a receipt?

Director Parisi stated that stickers are purchased through the mail and they are available in the office. Mailers are in with the tax bills; maybe they should be available at town meeting also.

T. Olson said the DPW office is looking into the availability of purchasing stickers on-line.

By-law prohibiting having the Transfer Station open during Town Meeting:

Initially it was enacted to encourage more participation at town meeting. We should talk to the Board of Selectmen about this as some DPW employees are not Rockport residents.

Next meeting on 7/10/13 at 7pm – Public hearing for water and sewer rates at the Police Station.

Commissioner Reed said that Bill Wagner is looking into the allocation issue that was thought to be benefits.

Commissioner Sena moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Reed, Vote: 3-0.